

Maywood, Calif. Oct 21, 1946

Dear Reverend Father Aloysius,

I intended to phone you for an appointment today but I got cold feet. You have no time for the likes of me, a spiritual bum. And besides you told me to write and let you know the results of my efforts to follow your kindly and inspired advice.

As you advised, I have taken a mental holiday and let my wife make the decisions concerning Rod etc. She did nothing and matters drifted. Also as you advised, when I think of what I should tell him I regard it as a distraction and pray for him.

I thank you dear Rev. Father for your prayers which are being granted to some large degree. Our Alice has calmed down. Yesterday she went to daily Mass with me. She seems more gentle in manner and more prayerful.

I have had only 2 word quarrels with my wife. One was just before we went to Confession. It came up suddenly out of a clear sky and seemed to be provoked by Satan.

Since I saw you I have had no spiritual fervor to speak of. Only dryness. And extreme irritation within me. Constant confusion. All mixed up. How I yearn to escape this mess of error and Godlessness. Politics, the world conference, union matters, communism, and all the rest.

But last Thursday before making the stations I appealed to the mercy of the Sacred Heart and requested the grace of fervor & piety. At the 7th station I was flooded with holy thoughts of close friendship and love & loyalty to our Blessed Lord Jesus, and became all inspired and alive as tho before I had been half dead. At the same time I was overcome with a burning desire to talk to children. But alas that wonderfully alive feeling has worn off and I have become quite ordinary again. This depresses me.

I do so want to do the Will of God and be always with Him in quiet interior life and solitude also to teach catechism or win souls to Christ in hospital wards or slums or any place. I do go to the County Hospital now and there is an old 84 year old man who has been away from the sacraments since he was 11 years old. He will not see a priest but accepted my request to receive a visit from a Sister. With apparent joy he showed me a miraculous medal she had given him. He also accepted a rosary from me. My duty is to find out those who want to go to the sacraments on Saturday. I go once each week.

I wanted to talk to you about giving up my membership attendance at the Knights of Columbus.

It seems a silly waste of time; except only once when Rev. Father McHenry of Clearwater spoke on the Mass. I'll never forget that address.

I still am keeping far away from mental prayer. Only last night I resolved to rise at 5⁰⁰ A.M. & set the clock so. But I turned it off & reset for 6:00 A.M. And all I did, was say Our Fathers to get back to sleep. It was not so much the sleepiness in itself, so much as a natural desire to get back to sleep.

But I still hope to get "things" done quickly & then get back to God & prayer. Will you please pray for me in this matter. Dear Holy Father I envy your close proximity to Our divine Lord and your settled state of life. I can sympathize with the poor Curé of Ars who so wanted to leave his parish house and go into solitude with God alone.

Please forgive all these trivial troubles of one who thoroly despizes myself for such a long letter of selfish troubles of self. Would that I could forget "me" from now on and think only of God & souls to gain for Him.

I feel covered with shame when I think of how I imposed on your precious time in the past, but even so I dare hope to consult with you again soon.

Your devoted disciple in Christ.
Thomas A. Connor

A Holy Christmas to you, Father!

My prayer for you during
the season, to the Infant
Jesus is that on Christmas
day His Divine Majesty may
replenish your soul with
all possible graces.

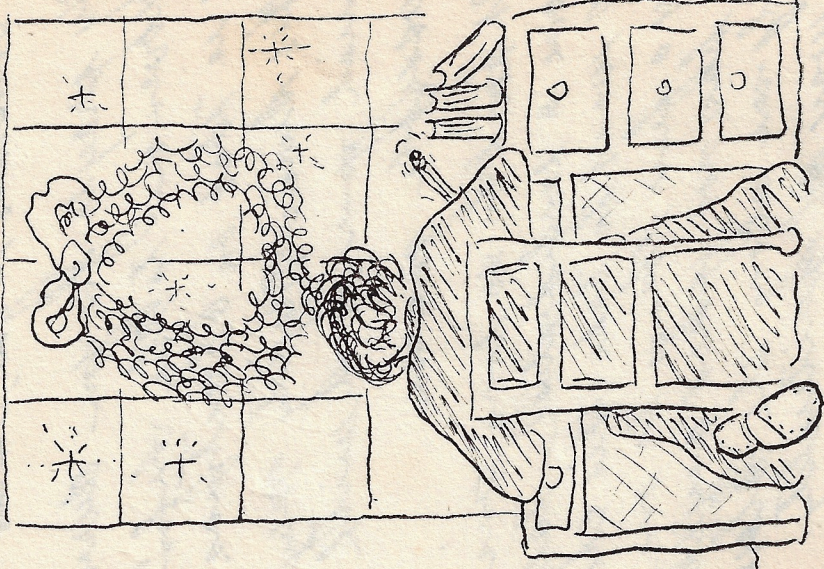
It has been so long since
we have a confidential talk
that I want to take this chance
to say a few things to one
who has not spoken anything
to help me along the Christ-
ian way of spirituality.

Father, I think is giving
me spiritual direction now.

novitiate piety. But don't
forget us here (which I know
you don't) and ask our Baby
Savior on this Christmas
to prepare our hearts for
the big day of holy ordination
particularly, as we are so
near to the sacerdotal goal.
It may be only a year and
a half for us of Third year
of Theology.

For the news I'll leave that
is the time when we will be
seeing you — I hope more than
once during the holidays.
Sincerely & cordially,
Richard, C. M. S.

Blessed Christmas





told me that,
though this
may seem very
general, yet it will
produce pure results,
as long as it is recalled when
particular occasions arise,
in which it can be put into
practice.

In overcoming my persecution
completely and thoroughly now, thanks
to the mediating grace of our
Sweet Mother. Whether this went
of the post was my own fault
or a special plan of mine -
I don't know. I only tell our
Sweet Mother that



I would like to be just another
means of loving him more NOW.

There was an incident that occurred
last night that I thought you would
like me to tell you. We had
re-election of the representatives
of the Missionary Association. When
the counts were read and I was
re-elected there was my applause
as in the case of all the others.
Maybe this is nothing, maybe the
Students were distracted, but never-
theless it did have an effect
on sensitive me - and a salutary
one, I think. I afterwards went
into chapel and told our Lord
this. Jesus, thank you for that



grace. For it was a grace. It has made me see how empty is the considerations and estimation of humans. When the only applause you got on Pilates porch was "Cheer up, cheer up, cheer up!" I am happy to think that I can share, in a small, small way, with you in the coldness of men. So now, dear Grace, I can see more clearly that this is the kind of indifference to which you deers me to run for - "rather indifference to all the things of this world," as Mr. Wellman said it.

Will, Jr., how are your boys? It must be a relief now to get away from so rowdy students, and be in the atmosphere of

He is helping me much. He is suggesting that I simply my interior life now, especially my meditation. This matter of meditation puzzles me at times. At one time it seems as though I'm a hopeless case, and at other times I have some sort of sailing. Maybe it is because of my constant Temperament, or perhaps that I am not adjusting myself to the type of group our dear Lord wants me to practice. But I'll just keep on trying.

Dr. Milagros has suggested that I make my particular women now out living the motto: "My heart belongs to Jesus." He